

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2323

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO MARITA AIRPORT

REF: TOKYO A-196, FEB 27, 1973

1. ENCLOSURE TO REPAIR DESCRIBED NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CORPORATION'S "EMERGENCY" PLAN TO SUPPLY FUEL TO NARITA AIRPORT BY TANKER TRAIN FROM SEAPORT OF KASHIMA TO FUEL DEPOT IN NARITA CITY AND BY UNDERGROUND PIPELINE BETWEEN CITY DEPOT AND AIRPORT. OPPOSITION BY LOCAL RESIDENTS ALONG ROUTE OF PROPOSED 4.5 KILOMETER PIPELINE HAS BEEN OVERCOME, PARTLY AS RESULT OF INTERVENTION BY NARITA MAYOR, AND THE CORPORATION WILL NOW FORMALLY SUBMIT THE PLAN TO GOJ FOR APPROVAL. WITH EARLY APPROVAL, CORPORATION WOULD EXPECT TO COMPLETE LAYING OF PIPELINE AND OPEN NARITA FOR AT LEAST LIMITED OPERATIONS TOWARDS END OF YEAR.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME U. S. AIRLINES IN TOKYO WHO FOLLOW NARITA DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY, THE FOREGOING PLAN IS A HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR ORIGINALLY PLANNED (AND, IN THEIR VIEW, STILL NECESSARY) PIPELINE FROM CHIBA PORT DIRECT TO AIRPORT. THEY ESTIMATE THAT FACILITIES BETWEEN NARITA CITY AND AIRPORT COULD SUPPLY AIRPORT WITH MAXIMUM OF 2,000 KILO- LITERS OF FUEL PER DAY, OR ONLY ONE- HALF OF QUANTITY NEEDED FOR FULL- SCALE OPERATIONS. THUS, IN ORDER TO ENABLE FULL- SCALE OPERATIONS AT NARITA IT WILL APPARENTLY STILL BE NECESSARY TO LAY PIPELINE FROM CHIBA TO

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AIRPORT. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, US AIRLINE REPS FEAR THAT IF GOJ APPROVES " EMERGENCY" PLAN, AND OPENS NARITA FOR ONLY LIMITED OPERATIONS, SERIOUS PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO DEVELOP OVER WHICH AIRLINES AND WHICH FLIGHTS WOULD BE SHIFTED FROM HANEDA. BECAUSE OF HIGHER OPERATING COSTS AND LESS CONVENIENT LOCATION OF NARITA, MOST FOREIGN CARRIERS, OF COURSE, WOULD PREFER TO REMAIN AT HANEDA. (FLT PROBABLY IS ONLY U. S. CARRIER WHICH WOULD WELCOME NARITA OPENING, BECAUSE OF ITS INTEREST IN EXPANDING OPERATIONS IN JAPAN.)

DECONTROL 3/74.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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